

LOCAL ANALGESIA, HEAD AND NECK. By Sir Robert Macintosh, D.M., F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.F.A.R.C.S., and Mary Ostlere, M.B., M.R.C.P.E., F.F.A.R.C.S. (Pp. vii + 134; figs. 145. 27s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1955.

THIS book is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the anatomy of the region, where necessary in some detail, for, as the authors rightly point out in the preface, success depends in large measure on the knowledge of the relevant anatomy. The second half of the book shows how this knowledge may be used to produce analgesia for practically every operation on the head and neck. Surprisingly, the thyroid is not mentioned. Both the anatomy and technique of nerve-blocking are beautifully illustrated by frequent line-drawings and coloured pictures of a standard such as one has come to expect from the Nuffield Department of Anaesthesia. The pictorial method of teaching is borne out by the fact that the 134 pages of text contain 145 illustrations. The descriptions of the techniques are simple and unambiguous.

This book will prove a boon to candidates for the F.F.A. examination, and will be an excellent reference book for those who only practise local analgesia on rare occasions.

The book is well produced and bound. The glossy paper may be essential for the illustrations, but it makes reading, especially in artificial light, more trying than a matt finish. W. M. B.

OUTLINE OF ORTHOPÆDICS. By John Crawford Adams, M.D., F.R.C.S. (Pp. vii + 423; figs. 299. 32s. 6d.) Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone, 1956.

WHEN a student approaches his final year he must often have a sense of confusion with regard to things surgical. With this book in his study he need no longer feel this way about one very large branch of surgery—orthopædics—for, in John Adams' book he will find the answers to all his orthopædic worries.

The book contains 432 pages, and is well illustrated by 299 photographs, X-ray reproductions, and line drawings. Each chapter is delightfully prefaced by hints on clinical examination which is one of the highlights of the book, for the examination of an orthopædic case in the final medical examinations is often very badly carried out by students. A most useful classification of the disorders to be dealt with in each chapter follows the hints on clinical examination. Fractures are not included, reasonably enough, and rare diseases have been left out.

The presentation is easily read, is concise, synoptical in its form, but yet avoiding the horrors of a true synopsis.

Whilst written primarily for medical students, others of more mature years will find in this book a ready reckoner of orthopædic essentials.

I can strongly recommend this book to medical students.

R. J. W. W.

PULMONARY CIRCULATION AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTION. A Symposium held at Queen's College, Dundee. (Pp. xii + 44; illustrated. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: Distributed for the University of St. Andrews by E. & S. Livingstone, 1956.

IN September, 1955, many of the leading workers in Great Britain on the pulmonary circulation and on respiratory function gathered for a two-day symposium in Dundee. Though some of the papers as printed read more like preliminary abstracts than verbatim reports of an informal conference, and though the discussion recorded also seems condensed and lacking in the vitality and asides found in some reports of other symposia, the record is a valuable and informative one.

The symposium probably attempted to cover too wide a field, and, especially on the day devoted to the pulmonary circulation in health and disease, many of the contributions appear somewhat isolated from one another.

This symposium is concerned with problems where rapid advances are being made. This report shows the close and valuable collaboration of physiology, experimental medicine, and surgery. It will repay careful study by those interested and its prompt publication is commendable.